

The INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE AUSTRALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY.

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India and Revolution Revolutionary Manifesto.

A Call to the British Proletariat.

(From the Amsterdam Sub-Bureau.)

The moment has arrived for the Indian Revolutionists to make before the world a clear statement of their principles and aims. The object of such a statement is to make the European and American proletariat interested in the struggle of the Indian masses, which is rapidly assuming the character of a fight for economic and social emancipation, and for the abolition of class rule. This manifesto is addressed particularly to the British Proletariat, because of their direct relation to the revolutionary movements growing in the various countries dominated by British Imperialism.

THE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT.

The Nationalist Movement of India, which strives for political independence and the establishment of a bourgeois democratic government, has so far failed to satisfy the overwhelming majority of the Indian population because it could not say in definite terms how the masses would be benefited by such an "independent national existence." A purely political movement can never eradicate the deep-seated economic and social evils which lie at the root of popular discontent, and which have driven the people to revolutionary class action. The emancipation of the Indian working class lies in the Social Revolution and the foundation of a Communist State. To attain this goal, the growing spirit of rebellion in the Indian masses must be organised on the basis of the class struggle, in close union and co-operation with the World Proletarian Movement.

Because India is politically and militarily dominated by a powerful foreign imperialism which deprives her people of even the most elementary rights indispensable for the organisation of an economic and social struggle, a revolutionary movement there must give emphasis on its programme to the political liberation of the country. But this does not mean that the final goal of the Revolution must be the establishment of a bourgeois political democracy under which the native privileged class would rule and exploit the Indian workers in place of British capitalists and bureaucrats. Up to now, the British proletariat has been kept in ignorance of the real nature of the revolutionary struggle going on in India. The world only knows that the revolutionary movement there is nothing but an agitation for political autonomy or complete independence. The capitalist press and government of Great Britain have always endeavoured to interpret the Indian unrest as the expression of the political ambition of a handful of middle-class malcontents, with which the masses have nothing to do. Only those conservative or moderate politicians who believe in English liberalism and who talk in terms of eighteenth century republicanism, are allowed to leave India openly and unmolested. They carry on a purely political propaganda, catering to the bourgeoisie of England and other countries, criticising the policy of Imperial exploitation pursued by the Anglo-Indian Government, and pleading for the sacred rights of the Indian people to political independence and a representative government. By "Indian people" they mean, of course, the Indian bourgeoisie. This kind of movement has failed very naturally, to enlist the sympathy and co-operation of the working class in any country, which must always remain indifferent to purely nationalistic aspirations having for their end the setting up of new bourgeois democrats, with the same division of classes into exploiter and exploited.

TWO TENDENCIES IN INDIAN MOVEMENT.

But the idea of class-conscious rebellion against capitalist exploitation has been gaining ground in India, immensely stimulated by the progress of the war. The quickening of industrial life, the incessant rise in the cost of living, the despatch of Indian troops for over-

seas service, and the distant echoes of the Russian Revolution, all served to fan the smouldering fires of discontent in the hearts of the Indian masses. The Nationalist Revolutionary Movement, whose ranks were composed mainly of educated youths of the middle class, endeavoured to direct this popular discontent towards an armed uprising against foreign rule. Since the beginning of the present century, terrorism and local insurrections had become more and more frequent and of a serious nature. Underground conspiracies for the overthrow of the government were discovered and punished with increasing severity, being condemned as treason by the rulers and as anarchy by the bourgeois political leaders who plead for self-government within the Empire. During the progress of the European war, several attempts were made to raise the banner of an armed revolt, which were suppressed and denounced as German intrigue. At last the whole country was placed practically under martial law. But all these revolutionary activities could not inspire the masses with lasting enthusiasm. The national solidarity preached by the leaders of this phase of the movement was purely sentimental. These leaders, sincerely idealistic as they were, failed to formulate a programme in which remedies for the social and economic evils from which the workers suffer, were prescribed. But dynamic economic forces that are destined to bring about a proletarian revolt in every country have grown acute in India, and as a result the spirit of rebellion has become more and more manifest among the people who were not moved to any serious action by the purely nationalistic doctrines preached to them during half a century. To-day, there are two distinct tendencies in the Indian Movement clearly defined as to principles and aiming at the different goals. One is the Nationalistic Movement, which advocates purely a politically autonomous or independent India, and whose leaders incite the masses to overthrow the foreign exploiter upon a programme of vague democracy or no programme at all. The other is the real revolutionary movement which stands for the economic emancipation of the workers, and which has behind it the growing strength of a class-conscious industrial proletariat and landless peasantry. This movement has become too big for the understanding or control of the bourgeois political leaders, and the only programme which can satisfy its aspirations is that of the Social Revolution. This Manifesto is issued on behalf of those who fill the ranks of this movement. We want the World Proletariat to know that Nationalism is confined to the bourgeoisie, where it naturally belongs, but the Indian masses are awakening to the call of the Social Revolution.

A.S.P. HALL

LIVERPOOL STREET, CITY.

DEBATE!

NEXT WEDNESDAY, AUG. 25th.

That both the schemes put forward by the W.I.U. of A. (O.B.U.) and W.I.U. are Utopian in character."

A. S. P. Affirmative:

C. JACKSON and A. S. REARDON.

Negative:

A. THOMAS (Organiser W.I.U. of A.)
A. W. WILSON (Organiser W.I.U.)

STRIKES ECONOMICAL, NOT POLITICAL.

The growth of class-consciousness among the Indian proletariat remained unknown to the outer world until the beginning of last year, when one of the most powerful and best organised general strikes of history was declared by the Indian Revolutionaries and maintained for more than three weeks, tying up the whole country. Although the Nationalist leaders took advantage of this direct action by using it as a weapon against political oppression announcing it as a protest strike against the notorious Rowlett Bills, the fact remains that this first general strike in Indian history was the spontaneous rebellion of the proletariat against unbearable economic exploitation. In view of the fact that the workers of the cotton mills owned by native capitalists were the first to walk out, it can not be maintained that the strike was nothing more than a nationalistic demonstration fomented by bourgeois politicians. It was a rebellion of the exploited against the exploiter, both native and foreign.

It is not unknown in England how this revolt of the furnished Indian workers was crushed by British Imperialism. All the deadly weapons of modern warfare were brought to bear upon the unarmed strikers. Soldiers opened fire upon mass meetings from front and rear. Peaceful processions of workers were mowed down by machine guns, tanks, armoured cars, and bombing planes. How did the British proletariat respond to this revolt of their Indian comrades against capitalistic oppression, and what was the attitude they took towards the manner in which it was quelled? In spite of all the evidence to the contrary, the British proletariat evidently believed that the Indian general strike was merely a nationalistic demonstration. Misled by its bureaucratic leaders, the British proletariat abstained from taking any definite action in accordance with the principles of class solidarity. A simultaneous general strike in Great Britain would have dealt a vital blow to Imperialistic capitalism at home and abroad. But, unfortunately, the British proletariat failed to rise to the occasion.

FAILURE OF BRITISH LABOR.

The only step taken was very weak, and of a petty bourgeois nature. This was a protest, issued in the name of the British working class and signed by Robert Smillie, Robert Williams, George Lansbury and J. H. Thomas, so phrased as to be unrecognisable, as the voice of a revolutionary proletariat raised to defend class interest. The leaders of the British Labour Movement condemned the manner of crushing the Indian revolt. They held that by adopting such measures the Indian government exposed to grave danger "the lives of BRITISH women and children in India." As true disciples of British Liberalism, and believers in the League of Nations brand of Internationalism, they advocated the right of the Indian people to self-determination, and recommended an autonomous government. They wrote that "British Imperialism has gone mad," meaning to say it should keep its head cool for the fulfilment of its mission to "democratise the backward peoples entrusted to its care and responsibility. (To be continued.)

The Communist Programme of the World Revolution.

BY N. BUCHARIN.

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RAY EVERITT Managing Editor.

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Break Down the Prison Wall.

A growing number of workers in Australia are advocating and striving towards a working-class revolution right here. But the majority remain unconvinced; they do not understand the revolutionary proposition in the least degree. They accept their boss and his belittles without question, and the Communist agitator is accused of bringing evil in his train rather than good.

It is for the Communist to state his case; convincing those he can, forcing those that remain unconvinced to move and emancipate themselves, and others, in spite of themselves. He must show the necessary conditions for this.

The Communists seek to live a better life. Yet however much they try, they find that their surroundings hem them in on all sides. The surroundings are like mighty prison walls, that are defended with countless weapons, some visible, others not. If he would go beyond the walls, into the fresh fields and sunlight, he must first break them down.

But of the thousands of inhabitants of Australia who are thus imprisoned, how few feel the need for the new life. Few realize that the ground is fast slipping from under the great prison walls; few are conscious of the foul air within their prison, few even are conscious of their prison-like existence at all.

Communists! It is our task, our duty to explain these things. To tell how it comes to be that only some have the golden key to pass outside the prison (they must, nevertheless, live within sight of the recking prison).

We must tell how we Communists would raise the prison walls to the ground and cast into the sea those keys that the votary of money so eagerly seeks.

Why is there such a prison at all? Why the bitter struggle to obtain one of the few keys of escape from its foulness?

Simplified, the question appears to the Communist in this way—

All men must have food, clothing and shelter.

Those who do not themselves produce these must obtain them by giving in exchange something they do possess and do not particularly need.

Nearly all of the people in Australia are in this position.

Most of these people are also in the position of not having access to the natural resources of the country.

These are the private property of a small number of individuals.

The majority of the people who do not possess any of these resources must exchange something for the necessary food, clothing and shelter. This is money.

Before they can get money they must first perform another act of exchange to get this money. They must sell something of an approximately equal value.

Having neither ownership of, nor access to, the natural resources, they must sell their only possession. This is their ability to toil, their laboring power.

As a result of this sale, the buyer assumes the position of master.

Buyer and seller each endeavours to make the transaction on the best conditions to himself.

Between all buyers and sellers of this human com-

THE Revolutionary Outlook

By MARCIA.

Revolution.

The Australian Socialist Party stands for straight out Revolution; for the establishment of the Proletarian Dictatorship, and the ultimate inauguration of the Co-operative Commonwealth. We hold that no organisation, either political or industrial, can benefit the workers as a class under capitalism; consequently our aim is to destroy the system and set up another in its place.

While we have many other organisations, some allegedly Socialistic, some avowedly Capitalistic, claiming that the conditions of the workers may be made more tolerable by the introduction of certain reforms, we of the A.S.P., the Communist Party in Australia, repudiate all such methods and devote our whole energies towards the education of our class, education for all time when conditions will force a Revolution.

Conditions.

We have not far to go in order to find ample proof of the futility of palliatives.

In Australia there has been a Labor Party in power, which set on foot certain reforms. We have old-age pensions, baby bonuses, invalid pensions, a partial eight hour day, and a highly developed system of craft unionism, compensation acts, State railways and tramways; yet, in spite of all these good things (?) the figures of the Government Statistician prove that the conditions of the workers has never been worse than it is to-day.

Starvation and Misery.

"The Benevolent Society of New South Wales is supplying 2000 families weekly with food."—"S.M.H.", 14/8/20.

It is notable that it is 2000 families, not individuals; in addition to this a collection, organised by the Lady Mayoress was taken up on the Sydney streets to provide clothing for destitute children.

At the present time there is a Labor majority in the Town Council, the Lord Mayor being also a staunch Laborite; apparently giving up as hopeless the task

moderate, laboring power, there is such an opposition of interest.

The simple and big reason for this is in the ownership and non-ownership of natural resources and the tools necessary to develop and utilise them.

The country—and world—is thus divided into property-owners and propertyless people. This enables them to become buyers and sellers of labor power, masters and slaves.

Those who own nothing more than their labor power become the inhabitants of the foul prison; those who have property have also the golden key of escape from the worst effects of the prison.

Often the propertyless sellers of labor power cannot find a buyer. There are eight thousand such in the city of Sydney to-day. Then they sink to the lowest depths, and gradually lose all resemblance to the well-kept and comfortable property owners. They become criminals, prostitutes, beggars.

All this and more is the outcome of the division of society into two sections, one large and the other small.

The question for the Communists is: How shall it be remedied?

The Communists make but one demand to remedy this condition of things.

This is the abolition of the institution of **Private Property**.

But however earnestly the Communists may demand it, however necessary they may prove it to be, however many scientific proofs they may adduce to demonstrate that it must pass out of existence, they will gain nothing; for it is in the interest of the owners of property to continue as such. To be a master breeds a desire to be forever a master.

The masters have constructed a legal and spiritual code that gives sanction to the right of private property.

But they do not stop at the creation of a legal code. They introduce the element of fear and punishment for any breach of it.

They back it up with the necessary force in the shape of a police force, and army, a navy, and the wrath of a jealous god and seventeen hells.

There is no mercy for those who break the laws of the master class.

The prison walls that prevent the working-class from passing into the freshness of a world without divisions are guarded by regiments of black coated ministers of divine sanction. They lull the restless slaves back into contentment.

When they fail, the police, and military regiments lull them with commandments of a different sort.

Such is the path of those who would break down their prison walls.—A.T.B.

of coping with the high cost of living, they have decided to undertake funerals, at a much cheaper rate than the ordinary firms are charging; thus bringing down the high cost of dying.

It is pretty evident that the Labor aldermen on the Council have realised that all they can do for the working-class is to bury them cheaply when they die of starvation.

Heaps of Money!

Mr. Storey said a few days since, that to carry out his different schemes of reform, he would need "heaps of money"; from where, would we ask, does he propose to obtain it?

Not from the workers, certainly; they own nothing of that commodity; consequently it is quite clear that it must be procured from the capitalist class; and it follows as a matter of course that "those who pay the piper call the time."

In other words, whatever good intentions Mr. Storey and his colleagues might have, they can do nothing without money, and the master class will only supply that on their own conditions, which will hardly be in the interests of the working-class.

Parliament to-day, whether it contains Nationalists, or Laborites, is merely the executive committee of the ruling class and as such must act in its interests; and against those of the workers.

Unemployed Army.

There are 8,000 unemployed vainly walking the streets of Sydney in search of a job; what is the Labor Party going to do about it?

What we have to ask ourselves is this: Is a system which denies 8,000 people in one town alone, the right to live, for as we know the workers can only live when they find a buyer for their labor-power, worth supporting?

The unemployed army is increasing all over the world, both of men and women. When are the workers going to abolish it with the system and support Socialism instead of Capitalism?

Women Meet in Town Hall.

On Tuesday a number of women met in the Town Hall to protest against that building being used for the purpose of welcoming the released I.W.W. men.

Certain women who attended the meeting in order to put the position for the other side, were put on by the police. This was only what was to be expected, and it was really a waste of time to go near the meeting.

The women there were backing up their own class, and we can well leave them to it; but the unfortunate part of the business is that so many women of the working-class are not so alive to their class position and seem to embrace anything rather than the Revolutionary movement.

For men and women of the slave class there is only one hope, not to band together in sections, but to form one revolutionary army with one objective—their emancipation.

Increase Production.

One of our new Labor members has mouthed the popular cry, that the high cost of living can be solved by increased production.

How the latter is going to act is not quite clear even to those who advocate it; but it is quite easy to show that it cannot, and will not, solve the problem.

Suppose you take any product, boots, for instance. An increased production in boots means that the market will be flooded; then we get bootmakers thronging in the unemployed army; the price of boots may go down because there is a glut of them; so also will the price of the labor power of those that make boots, because there is also a glut of them. This applies to the production of all other commodities; and thus we are kept on the bread line.

We have to remember always that labor power is a commodity and is subject to the laws governing other commodities; consequently, while increased production means harder work for our class, it certainly does not follow that we shall have the benefit of obtaining at a cheaper rate, the extra commodities that we produce.

The Question of Sects.

We have had fine examples during the last few weeks of the value of different religious sects to the master class.

The case of Dr. Mannix, and later that of the Nuns who escaped from the convent, have shown us how the workers, in many cases, still fiercely fight for another when it comes to a question of how to get to Heaven.

While they are deciding whether Roman Catholic or Protestant is in the right about Sister Ligouri, they are liable to forget that they are being robbed and exploited by a master class and all other such trifles.

While we of the Socialist movement do not take up a crusade against religion, it is nevertheless our duty to expound and point out anything that is leading the workers astray and hoodwinking them as to their real position.

It is unquestionable that from earliest times the church has always been on the side of the master class, and to-day, when the whole of the world's workers are in a state of unrest, it is proving a valuable weapon in taking their minds off revolution and better conditions, and causing them to enter into a sectarian struggle.

At such times then, it is clearly the right attitude for a Revolutionary Party to denounce the chloroforming effects of religion upon the workers, show its origin and history and point out that revolution alone should be all, that we, as a class, should worry about

Economics of a Transition Period

By N. Lenin

(Continued from the issue of July 24th.)

The following statistical material, furnished by the Central Department of Statistics, and which has only just been compiled in order to be given publicity, relates to the production and consumption of cereals, not throughout the whole of Soviet Russia, but only in 26 of its provinces (governments). It demonstrates to what degree we have already conquered capitalism during the short space of time which we have had at our disposal, and in spite of the difficulties, unprecedented in the history of the world, amidst which we had to work.

These are the statistics:—

Twenty-six Provinces of Soviet Russia	Population in millions.	Production of cereals (with-out sowings).	Cereals supplied		Total quantity at disposal of population.	Consumption per head, in poods.
			By the Commissariat of food	By smuggling		
Producing Provinces:						
Towns	4.4	—	20.9	20.6	41.5	9.5
Country	28.6	625.4	—	—	481.8	16.9
Consuming Provinces:						
Towns	5.9	—	20.0	10.0	40.0	6.8
Country	13.8	114.0	12.1	27.8	151.4	11.0
Totals	52.7	739.4	53.0	68.4	711.7	13.6

In this way about half the cereals were furnished to the towns by the Commissariat for food and the other half by smuggling.

An exact inquiry into the feeding of the town workers in 1918 established precisely this proportion. And the bread supplied by the State comes to the worker ten times cheaper than the bread supplied by speculators. The price of bread fixed by the latter is ten times higher than the price fixed by the State. That is what becomes apparent from an exhaustive study of workers' budgets.

The statistics I have just reproduced, if they are studied as they merit, furnish an exact picture which throws into relief all the essential features of the present economic situation in Russia.

The workers are emancipated from their exploiters, and their age-long oppressors; the great landed proprietors and the capitalists.

This step forward in the path of true liberty and real equality which, in its amplitude, its extent, and its rapidity, is without precedent in history, is not taken into consideration by the partisans of the bourgeoisie (including the petit bourgeois democrats); who understand liberty and equality in a sense of bourgeois parliamentary democracy which they grandiloquently call "Democracy" in general or "Pure Democracy" (Kautsky). But the workers have in view real equality, real liberty (emancipation from the yoke of the great landed proprietors and the capitalists); and that is why they pronounce so firmly for the Soviet power.

In an agricultural country it is the peasants who have gained first of all, more than anyone who have reaped the first fruits of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

The peasant suffered from hunger in Russia under the rule of the great landed proprietors and the capitalists. The peasant had never yet had, in the course of the long centuries of our history, the possibility of working for himself; he died of hunger while supplying hundreds of millions of poods of cereals to the capitalists in the towns and abroad. For the first time, under the regime of the dictatorship of the proletariat, the peasant can work for himself, and feed himself better than the town dwellers. For the first time, the peasant has made the acquaintance in practice of liberty; the liberty of eating his own bread, liberation from famine. Equality in the redistribution of the land reaches, as is known, its maximum degree; in the enormous majority of cases, in fact, the peasants have divided the land equally amongst the "consumers."

Socialism is the suppression of classes. In order to suppress classes, it is necessary first of all to overthrow the great landed proprietors and the capitalists. We have accomplished this part of the task; but that part was not the most difficult. In order to suppress the classes it is necessary, secondly, to bring about the disappearance of the difference at present existing between the peasants, and this is a problem which necessarily more protracted. It is a problem which cannot be solved simply by the overthrow of a class, whatever that class be.

It is a problem which can only be solved by the organised reconstruction of economic life, by passing from small, private, scattered, production for profit to large Communist production. Such a transition is of necessity of very long duration, and would only be retarded and hindered by recourse to hasty and insufficiently-considered administrative and legislative measures. It can only be hastened by assisting the peasant in such a way that he is given the possibility

of improving, on a vast scale, the whole of the technical side of agriculture, and, indeed, radically to transform it.

To solve this second most difficult part of the problem, the proletariat, after having overcome the bourgeoisie, must speedily carry out the following line of policy towards the peasant class; it must establish the distinction between the working peasant and the peasant proprietor, the laboring peasant and the trading peasant, the toiling peasant and the speculating peasant.

This difference constitutes the very essence of Socialism.

And it is not surprising that the Socialists in words, who are in fact only petit bourgeois democrats (the Martovs, the Chernovs, the Kautskys and Co.) do not understand the essence of Socialism.

This distinction is very difficult, in addition, because

in practice all forms of private property, in spite of their differences and their mutual opposition, are confounded in one whole by the peasant. Nevertheless, the distinction is possible, and not only possible, but flowing irresistibly from the conditions of rural economy and of peasant life. The working peasant for centuries has been oppressed by the great landed proprietors, the capitalists, the brokers, the speculators, and their States, including the most democratic bourgeois Republics. The working peasant has learnt, through his own experience in the course of centuries, to hate and combat these oppressors and exploiters; and this "education" which life has given him forces him to seek an alliance with the worker against the capitalist, against the speculator, against the broker.

But at the same time, the economic conditions under the system of production for profit infallibly transform the peasant (not always, but in the immense majority of cases) into a broker and a speculator himself.

The statistics reproduced above show clearly the difference between the toiling peasant and the speculating peasant.

The peasant who, in 1918-1919, gave to the famished workers of the towns forty million poods of cereals at a price fixed by the State, through the machinery set up by the State, in spite of all the gaps which that machinery reveals—gaps of which the workers' Government is perfectly aware, but which cannot be avoided during the first phase of the transition to Socialism—that peasant is the toiling peasant, the comrade equal in rights of the Socialist workmen, the best ally of the latter, his true brother in the struggle against the yoke of capital. And the peasant who sold in contraband forty million poods of cereals at a price ten times higher than that fixed by the State, taking advantage of the necessity and of the famine with which the town worker was struggling, thwarting the State, increasing and engendering everywhere lies, theft, chicanery—that peasant is the speculator, the ally of the capitalist, the class-enemy of the worker, the exploiter. The surplus cereals which he possesses indeed were gathered in from the common land with the aid of instruments the manufacture of which entailed the labor not only of the peasants, but also of the workman; and it is perfectly clear that to possess a surplus of cereals and to use part of it to launch into speculation is to become the exploiter of the starving workmen.

You desire "Liberty, Equality, Democracy," we are told on all sides, and you perpetuate the inequality of the workmen and the peasant by your Constitution, by the dispersion of the Constituent Assembly, by the violent requisition of surplus stocks of cereals, etc.

We reply: there has never been a State in the history of the world which has done as much to abolish the de facto inequality—the real absence of liberty, under which the toiling peasant has suffered for centuries.

But we shall never admit equality for the speculating peasant, just as we do not admit "equality" of the exploiter and the exploited, of the well-fed and the hungry, or the "liberty" of the first to plunder the second. And we shall deal with the erudite gentlemen who will not understand this difference as we deal with White Guards, even if these gentlemen give themselves the titles of democrats, Socialists, internationalists (Kautsky, Chernov, Martov).

(To be Continued.)

International

NEWS AND NOTES.

FRANCE.

A French Colony in Russia?

The following letter has been addressed to Krassin by the Perigieux Syndicate of Railwaymen:—

Comrade Krassin,

The importance of the questions you have been discussing in London has doubtless prevented you from following in detail the course of the class struggle in France.

I am instructed by the railwaymen of Perigieux to inform you that in consequence of measures of retaliation taken by the railway companies against those who participated in the recent general strike, a large number of that extremely important section of the working class are faced with starvation.

In addition are many whose Communist principles render them unwilling to remain any longer the helpless tools of rapacious profitmongers. Having nothing in prospect but the merciless persecution of their masters, these comrades are ready and anxious to place their labour-power and technical ability at the disposal of the great Russian Republic.

In view of Russia's shortage of engines, wagons and iron rails, we feel sure that our offer of assistance will not be made in vain.

It is certainly no exaggeration to say that if the Government and the companies persist in their refusal to reinstate the railway strikers it will be possible to organise at once in Russia a French colony composed of many thousands of workers capable of expediting immensely the construction and repair of the Russian railway system.

Perigieux alone would be able to supply some 500 or 600, and we know that in many other centres—Toulouse, Bordeaux, Saintes, Tours, Vierzon, Orleans, etc.—the workers are animated by the same spirit as ourselves.

I would, therefore, be greatly obliged if you would let me know whether the Russian Republic would be willing to afford us an asylum where we could carry on our trade in peace and fraternity.

With fraternal greetings from the railwaymen of Perigieux.

(Signed) THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

Commenting upon this matter "L'Humanite" says: "The situation is a very neat one; it is high time the country took steps to prevent the departure of so many of its best workmen by giving them the chance of earning their bread. Otherwise no serious objection can be raised to the granting of passports. Unless indeed it is intended to punish these men by condemning them and their wives and children to starvation."

"We should not be much surprised if it were."

French Socialists and the Third International.

According to a wireless message from Moscow, the representatives of the French Socialist Party, MM. Cachin and Froissard, have declared to the Executive Committee of the International that their party has definitely renounced the formation of an Independent International and would rally to the Third International.

Agitation on behalf of Black Sea Mutineers.

The following appeal has been issued by the Committee appointed to defend the heroes of the Black Sea Mutiny:—

"For having refused to be the accomplices of a Government which, in direct violation of all constitutional law, has been guilty of one of the greatest crimes in history—the treacherous attack upon the Soviet Republic—the crews of the Black Sea Fleet are in captivity."

"And their crime? They have refused to starve into submission a great people heroically struggling for freedom; they have refused to bombard undefended towns; they have refused to massacre women and children, and old men who received them as brothers; they have trusted to the word of honour of their officers, and in the justice of their country."

"Their self-sacrifice, their faith in the ideal of human solidarity will ever stand out as an example to all who fight for the emancipation of the world."

"Their idealism and fidelity to principle has won for them the fervent admiration of lovers of freedom the world over; and the oppressed of all lands can take courage from the thought that in one country at least are men willing to dare all rather than slaughter their fellow-men at the bidding of the bloodhounds that rule over them."

"Citizens of town and country, workers of all trades, and of all creeds! to the rescue!"

"Remembering the grandeur of their deeds and of the motives which prompted them surely the heart and conscience of every one of you must revolt against the sufferings your sailor comrades are called upon to endure. Come, then, to our aid and help to wring from their persecutors the amnesty they have so long deserved."

ITALY.

Agricultural Labourers.

"Avanti" of the 20th June throws light on the methods employed by the peasants of Sarzana to force their terms upon their employers. Previously to declar-

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ing a strike they demanded such a modification of the present system as would ensure to the agricultural workers two-thirds of the products of the soil, the other third going to the proprietors. The latter refused to treat on this basis only, offering some petty concessions, which were contemptuously refused. A strike was proclaimed, the peasants deciding to reap only sufficient grain and thrash only sufficient corn for their own needs. They have been joined by agricultural workers from other districts, all of whom are solid in their determination to obtain better conditions for themselves and their families.

Militarism Not Wanted.

In Milan an attempt to hold a military demonstration resulted in failure, giving place to a vigorous counter-demonstration of an anti-militarist character. Some broken heads resulted, but no injuries of a serious character.

Italian Railwaymen.

The Central Committee and the Committee of Agitation meeting at Rome on June 19th proclaimed a general strike of railway workers to date from Sunday, June 20th.

The news was brought by special messenger to a meeting of the railway workers on strike in Milan, and was received with great applause. The strike in Milan was brought about by the haughty and autocratic reply of a high functionary who was approached as to the attitude adopted by the authorities towards the stationmaster at Cremona, who, by sending off munitions of war caused a strike in that district.

HUNGARY.**On The Threshold of Revolution.**

Details of the proceedings at the secret session of the Hungarian National Assembly on the 5th inst. are now to hand. A member called Huszar declared that the outrages perpetrated by the soldiery upon the population put in the shade the horrors of the Commune and the cruelties of the Spanish Inquisition. He and other speakers cited many revolting cases of military murder.

Rubinek, the Minister for Agriculture, said: "There is no longer a Jewish question nor an anti-Jewish vote. Jews and peasants are united in hatred of the ruling classes. That is what the military have done. They have incited farm labourers and small farmers against the large landowners. We are standing on the threshold of a peasant revolution."

In the course of the debate Count Apponyi made the pathetic statement that in England a Labor Party would soon hold the reins of government, and that it could be relied upon to revise the Peace Treaty. Apparently he has not heard that Mr. Arthur Henderson told the German people that if they accepted the Treaty as it stood, the Labor Party would see that the terms were revised. But the promise was not kept.

RUSSIA.**Vigilance Committees of the Red Army.**

With reference to the recent rumours as to Brussiloff having overthrown Lenin and proclaimed a military dictatorship, Fritz Platten has explained to the correspondent of "L'Humanite" that owing to the precautionary measures taken by the Soviet authorities anything of the kind is extremely unlikely. It appears that attached to every brigade are a number of representatives of the civil authority of tried honesty and capacity, whose special duty is to be on the qui vive for any signs of disloyalty by those connected with the old regime. Under the circumstances the coup d'etat for which our bourgeois journals so fondly hope would be somewhat difficult to engineer.

A French Churchill.

The following appeared recently in "La Victoire": "Lenin is not a representative of any form of human civilisation; he stands for the complete destruction of

Australian Socialist Party**NEWS AND NOTES****CENTRAL EXECUTIVE.**

C. E. delegates are reminded that the next meeting will be held on Thursday, Aug. 26th. All delegates are requested to attend.

The Central Executive at its last meeting extended a very hearty welcome to Comrade Paddy Lamb, who was visiting Sydney as a delegate of the Broken Hill miners, on the Conference with the mineowners.

Com. Lamb was requested to convey the good wishes of the C.E. to the Party members in Broken Hill, and to assure the workers of Broken Hill generally of the admiration and appreciation of the Party, for the splendid solidarity shown in the bitter 16 months of the fight on the Barrier.

A.S.R.

SYDNEY BRANCH.

We have still the most optimistic reports to make of branch activities.

On Sunday, August 15th, we held a most successful meeting on the Domain, a record crowd being gathered around the platform. Coms. Teece, Jackson and Reardon were the speakers, and everyone agreed that it was one of the best meetings ever held in the Domain.

The literature and paper sales were exceptionally good, breaking even the previous Sunday's record. This is where the success and encouragement comes in; we realise that although the speakers put in good work the effect of their influence is proved mainly by the literature they sell.

At the Hall in the evening Mr. P. J. Brookfield occupied the platform, speaking on his "Political and Industrial Experiences." The Hall was packed to its utmost limits, many were obliged to stand; and others unable to gain entrance.

The speaker dealt with his political career, and also with industrial matters; he gave it as his opinion that so far as Parliament was concerned it was useless as a means of benefiting the workers, and stressed the necessity of industrial organisation; but he also made it clear that so far as he personally was concerned Revolution was the only hope for our class.

We were glad to welcome Mr. Brookfield on our platform, and hope to have him again in the near future. Before the lecture several violin solos were rendered by Mr. F. Hanney, and were heartily appreciated by the audience.

MARCIA REARDON, Asst. Sec.

all civilisation; he has dragged Russia back into primitive savagery, and could he have had his way, would have served the rest of Europe the same."

"When, in years to come," is "L'Humanite's" comment on this outburst, "the world has acknowledged the great debt it owes to Lenin, the contemptible banalities of our bourgeois press will not make pleasant reading."

ARMENIA.**An Example to Lloyd George.**

A delegation from the Armenian Republic, with the President of the Armenian Parliament at its head, has arrived in Russia. The delegation is entrusted with the task of concluding peace with the Soviet Government. "The Call."

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WET WEATHER

On Wet Sundays when no meeting can be held in Sydney Domain, there will be a meeting in the Sydney Branch Hall, Liverpool Street.

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Ernest Poole.

This wonderful story is concerned with the career of a man of imagination and sensibility, whose boyhood was spent near the docks of New York Harbour, and to whom the restless, ever-changing vistas of the haven, the coming and going of the ships, the unending labour of those who man and dock them, the wild orgies of sailors ashore, become a symbol of modern industrial life with all its cruelty, crudity, and hectic joys. After a period of residence in Paris, he returns to a life of authorship, but falls under the influence of a born revolutionary and participates in the tragedy of a dockers' strike. The book is an indictment of industrial conditions, and is irradiated with visions of mighty social changes in the near future. 2/9; Posted 3/-.

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